

Fun N FITchburg Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

April 26, 2010

10:00-12:15 PM

Conference Room at Fitchburg City Hall

The meeting came to order approximately 10:05PM, 9 members present

The group introduced themselves

Mary Giannetti from MOC reviewed the progress that the group has made as well as the minutes from the last meeting.

An overview of the 4 sectors and the vote that was taken to decide which strategies should have action taken using strategies and action from IOM, RWJ, and CDC. Two strategies healthy eating and physical activity each.

The most popular on the Nutrition is to support farmers markets and encourage restaurants to offer reasonably sized portions low-fat, low calorie items and label nutritional items on menu.

The most popular of the physical activity

Keep community safe and free from crime to encourage outdoor activity and to increase access to recreation facilities and open spaces and to expand trails and connections.

Also discussed: CHANGE tool and stakeholder interviews

Interviews already done is Mayor, Planning Department, Park Board members and BOH
Need to interview the Police Chief, Redevelopment authority, DPW and MART

The group is continuing gathering information such as walking audits and GIS mapping as well as focus groups, one for youth and three for parents in low-income neighborhoods. Will engage youth to assist with activities.

Mayor Wong joins meeting – she discussed her vision for the city and current activities . She spoke of a 2nd park –such as Riverfront Park for gateway cities funded from the state Looking to expand trails along river to bring others from surrounding towns into this area. Also discussed SMART growth in Fitchburg to draw in additional business from local residents in Fitchburg and other towns to support the local economy – redevelopment of old mills. She hopes that this city will be a model for the state.

Challenges discussed by Mayor

Access to affordable daycare

Public transportation

Access to safe and public housing

Lack of health and nutrition education in the school system

Crime and gang activity

Lack of Physical Ed, Home econ and nutrition in schools
Access to healthcare in city

State members mentioned additional funding –the successful funding policies and the achievable policies in 2 years they also suggested the possibility of private and public funding being used.

The suggestion to use social media to update communities and the partnership of planning and economic developments are important.

When asked where funding is needed MOC employees replied:

Mary Giannetti stated that we need funding for continued assessment and also discussed collaborations and interest of modeling Fun 'n FITchburg in the region

Ayn mentioned that we have done a lot of work with the young-peer groups but not enough with the adult and elder community.

An article –A Framework for Public Health Action: The Public Health Pyramid was handed out to members

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm

Next meeting May 24th at 3:00 Veterans Hall